

# OREGON CROP WEATHER



**NATIONAL  
AGRICULTURAL  
STATISTICS  
SERVICE**

**USDA, NASS, Oregon Field Office**

Released: May 23, 2011  
Week ending: May 22, 2011  
Volume: 08-11

Phone: 503-326-2131  
Toll Free: 1-800-338-2157  
Email: [nass-or@nass.usda.gov](mailto:nass-or@nass.usda.gov)  
Internet: [www.nass.usda.gov/or](http://www.nass.usda.gov/or)

**Weather:** For the most part, conditions were good for farm work. A glimpse of summer with a few sunny days was welcomed, although average temperatures were still about 4 degrees cooler than normal. Precipitation was about normal. Low temperatures ranged from 25 degrees in Christmas Valley to 43 degrees in North Bend. High temperatures ranged from 59 degrees in North Bend and Crescent City to 80 degrees in The Dalles. Average temperatures were between 44 and 59 degrees. All 43 stations reported measurable precipitation but only La Grande and Baker City reported more than an inch. Heavy rains meant that flooding remains a concern in the Grande Ronde Valley. More rain or fast snow melt would likely mean more flooding. Average precipitation reported across all stations was 0.33 inches.

**Field Crops:** Crops and field activities were behind. Some catch up occurred. Klamath County continued to see growth of crops but first cutting of hay was still delayed with yields expected to be low. Field preparation work was being done throughout the State. Crimson clover was blooming approximately two weeks later than normal. Tall fescue and grass were heading. Spraying for stripe rust took place this week. Reports were received that mentioned that some fields may not get planted at all since optimal planting dates were almost over for most spring crops.

**Vegetables:** The cool weather had slowed development of vegetables. Cole crops were still growing slowly. Sweet corn

plantings were delayed. Rhubarb matured. Vegetable crop seeding in Douglas County was about 3 weeks behind normal rates. Vegetable growers in Clackamas County were busy planting sweet corn and beans.

**Fruits and Nuts:** Orchard and vineyard spraying picked up as the weather got dryer this week. Codling moth was seen, along with apple scab, bud mites, and cedar rust. Crops have been slow to develop, but strawberries were starting to blossom and walnuts were leafing in Washington County. Low temperatures in Hood River forced farmers to implement frost protection measures, Wasco County reported no frost damage. Caneberry growers were mowing or tilling between rows. Some Marionberry fields showed freeze damage from cold temperatures in late February.

**Nurseries and Greenhouses:** Shipping of trees and shrubs continued. Despite the conditions this spring, reports of sudden oak death issues have not increased.

**Livestock, Range and Pasture:** Range and pasture conditions continue to improve with warmer temperatures. Rangeland had plentiful stock water. Livestock were doing well. Washington County reported that their buffalo calves looked good and newborns were still arriving. Josephine County reported seeing lots of baby goats and calves.

**Soil Moisture - Week Ending 05/22/11**

	<b>Very short</b>	<b>Short</b>	<b>Adequate</b>	<b>Surplus</b>
	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>
Topsoil	0	5	70	25
Subsoil	0	5	68	27

**Crop Condition - Week Ending 05/22/11**

<b>Crop</b>	<b>Very poor</b>	<b>Poor</b>	<b>Fair</b>	<b>Good</b>	<b>Excellent</b>
	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>
Winter wheat	1	1	16	61	21
Range and pasture	1	4	25	62	8

**Crop Progress - Week Ending 05/22/11**

<b>Crop</b>	<b>This week</b>	<b>Last week</b>	<b>Last year</b>	<b>5 year average</b>
	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>
Barley planted	88	85	95	97
Barley emerged	65	60	85	86
Spring wheat planted	96	92	100	100
Spring wheat emerged	72	52	96	94
Days suitable for fieldwork	5.7	4.7	3.7	5.8

## Western Oregon

**CLACKAMAS COUNTY:** It was a nice warm and dry week. Most soils were dry enough for tillage and planting. Vegetable growers were busy planting corn and beans. Caneberry growers were mowing or tilling between rows. Some Marionberry fields showed freeze damage from cold temperatures in late February. Most pasture grass was starting to head. Some haylage was made and lots of green chop was cut this week.

**COOS/CURRY COUNTY:** Warm and moist with enough sun to warm soil temperatures. Pastures were mostly in excellent condition. Low temperatures were slightly above the 5-year average in Brookings (southern Curry) and nearly 2 degrees below the 5-year average in Bandon (Coos County). High temperatures through the week were about 5 to 6 degrees below the 5-year average in both southern Curry, and Coos. Heaviest precipitation was on Tuesday for both counties. Producers continued to move more cattle onto the bottoms. First cutting hay started where fields were stable enough for equipment. There were 5 days suitable for field work during the period. Bandon (Coos & Northern Curry): Low temperature for the period was 41.92 degrees, 1.65 degrees below the 5-year average. High temperature for the period was 59.72 degrees, 5.71 degrees below the 5-year average. Precipitation for the period was 0.06 inches, which is 0.4 inches below the 5-year average for the week. Weather year 2011 (began 10/1/2010) precipitation stands at 49.79 inches, 2.86 inches below the 5-year average. Average precipitation through the month of May is 55.97 inches. Brookings (Southern Curry): Low temperature for the period was 44.61 degrees, 0.7 degrees above the 5-year average. High temperature for the period was 65.43 degrees, 6.14 degrees below the 5-year average. Precipitation for the period was 0.52 inches, compared to a 5-year average of 0.53 inches. Weather year 2011 (began 10/1/2010) precipitation stands at 83.01 inches, 6.38 inches above the 5-year average. Historical average precipitation through May is 68.15 inches.

**DOUGLAS COUNTY:** Heavy rain early in the week had been followed by good drying weather. Farmers were able to get back in fields by the end of the week and will do a lot of cultivation and planting this weekend and next week. Orchard and vineyard spraying was going strong as the soil dries out and allows access. Continued to see most perennial crops

were about 2 to 3 weeks behind normal development stages. Vegetable crop seeding was also about 3 weeks behind normal rates. Grass seed crop development, and local hay crops were looking good but were about 10 days behind normal maturity rates.

**JOSEPHINE COUNTY:** It was a busy week. Lots of preparation for planting. Some vegetable planting. Temperatures were more moderate. Overnight temperatures were 34 degrees to 44 degrees. Daytime temperatures were 44 degrees to 70 degrees. Received about 0.5 inches of precipitation. Drying winds with warmer temperatures were drying surface fast. Animals were doing well and lots of baby goats and calves. Nurseries were selling lots of poultry chicks, bedding plants, seeds, and fertilizer.

**LANE COUNTY:** Slow development for all crops, just too cool. Some fields still not tilled or were just starting to till. Pears showed some coastal cedar rust, apple scab and the first sighting of codling moth in the Scio area. Cole crops were still slowly growing. Crops with cold frames were doing better with the added heat.

**WASHINGTON COUNTY:** Crimson clover was blooming, approximately two weeks later than normal. Red clover was growing well. Tall fescue and grass for seed both started heading. Winter wheat was ready to head. Stripe rust was present in many wheat fields, but many were spraying for control measures. Strawberries were starting to blossom, but also two weeks behind; however, some strawberries started to show up at farmers markets. Walnuts were leafing, filbert spraying continued, and rhubarb matured. Grapes were slowly progressing, but they were leafing. Sweet corn planting was delayed. Buffalo calves looked good and some newborns were still arriving. Generally, cattle looked good. High temperature was 61 degrees, and low temperature was 40 degrees, with 0.25 inches of rain fall.

**YAMHILL COUNTY:** Codling moth emergence began this week; Apple scab sprays continued and some bud mite sprays were applied in hazelnuts. Red clover was getting mowed off but no silage or hay at this point. Crimson clover was blooming. Grasses were all headed out. There was lots of planting during the week with dry weather.

## Eastern Oregon

**HARNEY COUNTY:** Temperatures warmed a bit as the week progressed, offering better growing conditions for crops and rangeland pastures. Flooding was still occurring in localized areas as a result of rapid snowmelt coupled with spring rain. Cattle were enjoying good range and pasture conditions and a year was offering plentiful stockwater on range allotments.

**HOOD RIVER COUNTY:** Variable conditions prevailed through the week. Minimum temperatures dipped into critical ranges for developing fruit in the upper Hood River Valley on May 17 with localized frost protection. Codling moth biofix occurred on 5/20 at the OSU-MCAREC. At week's end, crop development in the lower Hood River Valley was as follows: Red Delicious apple at full bloom to post bloom (WSU stages 8&9); Pinot noir grape at Eichhorn-Lorenz stages 7 to 9.

**KLAMATH COUNTY:** Another mixed bag of weather during the week. The beginning of the week saw cool wet weather, received over 0.33 inches of precipitation. Woke up to snow covered ground on Wednesday. Had favorable spring like temperatures at the end of the week, 60's and 70's. Had four nights of freezing temperatures during the week. Continued to see growth of crops but first cutting hay would be delayed and yields were expected to be lower. Spring planting and irrigation continued.

**LAKE COUNTY:** Received precipitation during the later part of the week and weekend. Field work being conducted in portions of the County, preparing for spring planting.

**SHERMAN COUNTY:** There was an increase in spray activity for rust due to weather conditions and aggressive salesmen. Big storm last Saturday dumped 0.75 inches in 45 minutes then another 0.85 inches in the next 14 hours. It was too damp to do much field

work until Tuesday.

**UNION/BAKER:** Thunderstorms brought heavy rains starting late May 14th and ending very early May 16th. Received 2.5 inches to nearly 3 inches of rain during this period in several places in the Grande Ronde Valley. Soil surfaces were just beginning to dry enough late last week to resume field work and spring planting, which was already approximately two weeks or more behind. However, the heavy rains quickly overloaded the fairly saturated soil profile and full surface water bodies resulting in record flows in the Grande Ronde River and flooding along Catherine Creek and many other tributaries. Wolf Creek Reservoir was at capacity. There was much concern for continued damage if a large amount of additional rain was received and if high temperatures quickly melted remaining snow melt in the surrounding mountains. Optimal planting dates were almost over for most spring crops, so excessively wet fields may not get planted at all. Flooded fields would not dry out quickly enough to facilitate replanting. According to Union County Emergency Services, average snow pack remaining for area SNOTELL sites were 407 percent of normal for this time of the year. Union County Board of Commissioners had begun the process to declare a state of local emergency and then proceed to the state/federal level.

**WALLOWA COUNTY:** Temperatures were warmer but excessive moisture was causing problems with spring wheat plantings. Some producers would probably be looking at prevented planting for 2011. The jury was still out for barley and oats.

**WASCO:** Fruit set in The Dalles cherry production area looked very good. Most areas around The Dalles seemed to have avoided the winter and frost damage that other regions were facing.

**Weather data for selected stations in Oregon, Week ending: May 22, 2011 (as of 11:00 am) <sup>1</sup>**

Station	Air temperature <sup>2</sup>				Growing degree days <sup>3</sup>		Last week precip. <sup>4</sup>			Season cum. precipitation <sup>5</sup>			
	Low	High	Avg.	DFN <sup>6</sup>	Total	DFN <sup>6</sup>	Total inches	DFN <sup>6</sup>	Days <sup>7</sup>	Total inches	DFN <sup>6</sup>	Pct. normal	Days <sup>7</sup>
<b>COASTAL AREAS</b>													
Astoria	37	63	52	-2	14	-7	0.02	-0.61	1	77.68	16.97	128	186
Bandon <sup>8</sup>	42	60	51	-2	13	-6	0.06	-0.54	3	51.59	-3.75	93	173
Crescent City	41	59	51	-3	11	-17	0.64	-0.01	2	59.54	-2.28	96	139
Florence	34	63	51	-3	12	-12	0.29	-0.55	3	73.88	2.98	104	181
North Bend	43	59	52	-3	14	-13	0.50	-0.12	3	45.41	-14.17	76	131
Tillamook	36	64	51	-2	12	-4	0.05	-0.93	3	75.33	-5.55	93	173
<b>WILLAMETTE VALLEY</b>													
Aurora <sup>8</sup>	40	72	55	-1	37	-3	0.11	-0.38	3	47.09	9.94	127	170
Corvallis	38	72	54	-2	29	-7	0.50	0.08	3	41.60	2.04	105	170
Detroit Lake <sup>8</sup>	38	73	52	+2	19	+3	0.18	-0.56	3	94.35	32.06	151	176
Eugene	36	72	54	-3	29	-15	0.27	-0.22	3	36.03	-9.76	79	136
Hillsboro	37	73	53	-3	24	-15	0.08	-0.27	3	37.23	3.12	109	158
McMinnville	37	72	54	-3	29	-14	0.03	-0.39	2	41.73	1.28	103	158
Portland	42	74	56	-2	45	-8	0.06	-0.41	2	44.71	12.15	137	158
Salem	41	74	56	+2	45	+8	0.32	-0.10	2	43.93	7.97	122	153
<b>SW VALLEYS</b>													
Grants Pass	39	77	54	-7	35	-32	0.43	0.15	4	37.61	8.10	127	129
Medford	39	76	56	-4	40	-20	0.34	0.13	3	19.19	1.96	111	102
Roseburg	41	75	56	-2	43	-9	0.63	0.30	4	33.62	3.14	110	143
<b>NORTH CENTRAL</b>													
Condon	31	71	49	-4	12	-10	0.32	0.07	4	15.66	4.16	136	119
Echo <sup>8</sup>	34	79	56	-5	49	-20	0.01	-0.13	1	11.17	3.46	145	105
Heppner	36	74	53	-4	29	-15	0.05	-0.29	2	15.26	3.67	132	112
Hermiston	35	79	57	-4	49	-20	0.10	-0.04	1	11.65	3.94	151	99
Madras <sup>8</sup>	33	72	49	-6	6	-30	0.09	-0.11	2	9.47	1.08	113	97
Moro	32	74	52	-3	25	-5	0.03	-0.18	3	13.63	4.08	143	91
Parkdale <sup>8</sup>	32	72	50	-7	10	-34	0.14	-0.07	4	44.82	15.79	154	153
Pendleton	36	75	54	-5	36	-24	0.18	-0.03	2	14.78	4.55	144	109
Prairie City <sup>8</sup>	33	72	49	-6	6	-30	0.09	-0.11	2	9.47	1.08	113	97
The Dalles	38	80	59	+5	67	+30	0.02	-0.12	1	13.69	2.81	126	104
<b>SOUTH CENTRAL</b>													
Agency Lake <sup>8</sup>	35	67	47	-4	5	-9	0.28	0.07	4	15.99	2.04	115	94
Bend	31	70	45	-6	3	-14	0.73	0.53	3	7.13	-2.37	75	51
Burns	31	66	48	-4	12	-8	0.57	0.36	2	13.12	5.37	169	102
Christmas Valley <sup>8</sup>	25	69	44	-11	-	-31	0.34	0.13	4	9.25	-0.71	93	117
Klamath Falls	30	70	47	-8	6	-23	0.35	0.14	3	9.81	-1.77	85	76
Klamath Falls <sup>8</sup>	31	70	46	-8	5	-24	0.24	0.03	3	12.29	0.71	106	105
Lakeview <sup>8</sup>	28	64	44	-9	3	-19	0.33	-0.02	5	14.29	1.17	109	110
Lorella <sup>8</sup>	29	69	46	-8	-	-29	0.37	0.16	4	12.62	1.04	109	103
Redmond	32	72	49	-4	8	-12	0.20	0.06	3	9.20	2.63	140	76
Worden <sup>8</sup>	27	68	46	-8	5	-24	0.22	0.01	3	11.63	0.05	100	89
<b>NORTHEAST</b>													
Baker City	27	73	49	-5	17	-8	1.18	0.90	4	10.49	2.96	139	101
Joseph	28	66	47	-2	12	+5	0.55	0.07	4	12.00	-8.52	58	107
La Grande	32	73	52	-3	29	-6	1.55	1.20	5	13.58	-0.43	97	111
Imbler <sup>8</sup>	32	73	51	-4	23	-6	0.73	0.31	2	19.63	-0.32	98	127
<b>SOUTHEAST</b>													
Ontario	34	79	58	-4	60	-14	0.79	0.63	3	10.22	2.17	127	83
Rome	26	69	46	-11	5	-40	0.28	0.07	5	11.80	5.67	192	83

<sup>1</sup> Summary based on NWS data. Copyright 2011: AWIS, Inc. All Rights Reserved.

<sup>2</sup> Air temperature in degrees Fahrenheit.

<sup>3</sup> Growing degree days base-50 degrees Fahrenheit.

<sup>4</sup> Precipitation (rain or melted snow/ice) in inches.

<sup>5</sup> Season cumulative precipitation starts September 1, 2010.

<sup>6</sup> DFN=Departure from normal (using 1961-1990 normal period).

<sup>7</sup> Precipitation days = Days with precipitation of 0.01 inch or more.

<sup>8</sup> Agri-Met weather stations.